

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-14 /128 W

----- 031632

R 180945Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4034

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T SANAA 1483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJ: PRESENT COMPOSITION OF COMMAND COUNCIL

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

REF: SANAA 1258

1. SINCE ASSESSMENT ON COMPOSITION COMMAND COUNCIL REPORTED REFTEL THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS RUMORS OF CHANGES ON COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH MEMBERSHIP SEEMS TO HAVE DELIBERATELY BEEN KEPT AS FLUID AS POSSIBLE, ONLY ACTUAL CHANGES SO FAR HAVE BEEN ELIMINATION OF FORMER DEP MININT LTC KUHALI AND ADDITION OF TAIZ MILITARY COMMANDER LTC DIRHAM ABU LUHUM.

2. TREND OBSERVABLE IN LAST MONTH, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN  
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APPEARANCE OF MORE MANAGEABLE INNER CIRCLE OF FIVE

OFFICERS WHO MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS UNDER FIRM GUIDANCE OF HAMDI. THESE ARE HAMDI HIMSELF, HIS DEPUTY LTC ABU SHAWARIB WHO HAS CLOSE TIES BY MARRIAGE TO POWERFUL SHAIKH ABDALLAH AL-AHMAR AND WHO COMMANDS MAJD BRIGADE, TWO LOYAL HAMDI LIEUTENANTS LTC ABD AL-ALIM AND LTC GHASHMI WHO COMMANDS PARATROOPS AND FIRST ARMORED BRIGADE RESPECTIVELY, AND TAIZ MILITARY COMMANDER LTC DIRHAM ABU LUHUM TO REPRESENT ABU LUHUM INTERESTS. LATTER SEEMS TO BE MOST STABLE ABU LUHUM AND ONE MOST ACCEPTABLE TO HAMDI.

3. NUMBER OF REPORTS SUGGEST THAT MANY IF NOT ALL OF FIVE "OUTER" MEMBERS OF CC MAY BE DEPARTING. MOST LIKELY IS LTC HAMUD BAYDAR, WHOM HAMDI HAS WANTED TO SHIP OUT AS AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA. BAYDAR REPORTEDLY HOLDING OUT FOR BETTER POST IN ROME, BUT THERE ARE RELIABLE REPORTS THAT AF COMMANDER AND CC MEMBER LTC SHAYBA MAY BE SENT THERE INSTEAD. SHAYBA REPORTEDLY STILL UNDER SUSPICION OF BEING TO FRIENDLY TO SINAN ABU LUHUM AND IS ALLEGEDLY UNPOPULAR IN AIR FORCE. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA BELIEVES LTC ALI ABU LUHUM MAY BE SENT ABROAD BECAUSE OF HIS ERRATIC CONDUCT AND BAATHI SYMPATHIES. HIS BROTHER SINAN HAS CRITICIZED ALI'S PERFORMANCE IN FRONT OF AMB. MUSTAFA. CC MEMBER DABA'I MAY BE DROPPED IN ORDER TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO HIS CHIEF OF STAFF DUTIES.

4. MOST SURPRISING ARE SEVERAL REPORTS THAT LTC YAHYA MUTAWAKKIL'S STAR IS WANING AND THAT HE MAY BE DROPPED FROM CC, ALTHOUGH HE WILL REMAIN MININT. MOST FREQUENT CRITICISM IS THAT HE UNTRUSTWORTHY SINCE HE CLAIMS TO EACH LEADER--HAMDI, SINAN ABU LUHUM, PRIMIN AL-AYNI, AND AL-AHMAR THAT HE SUPPORTS THAT PARTICULAR PERSON.

5. WHETHER FIVE "OUTSIDE" MEMBERS OF CC WILL IN FACT BE DROPPED IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN GIVEN BARGAINING NATURE OF YEMENI POLITICS. FOR PRESENT, HOWEVER, TREND TO SMALLER INNER CIRCLE MENTIONED ABOVE SEEMS CLEAR. GHASHMI AND DIRHAM ABU LUHUM TRAVELED WITH HAMDI TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT, WHILE ABU SHAWARIB

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STAYED HOME TO ACT FOR HAMDI AND ABD AL-ALIM, AS HAMDI HIMSELF COMMENTED TO TWO OF OUR SOURCES, REMAINED AS KEY TROOP COMMANDER TO PROTECT REGIME. NEWTON

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NNN

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**TAGS:** PINT, YE, (AL-HAMDI, IBRAHIM), (AL-HUHALI, MOHAMMAD SALIH), (SHAWARIB, ABU), (LUHUM, ALI ABU), (AL-ALIM, ABD), (MUTAWAKKIL, YAHYA)  
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